



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

April 7, 2008

Off Duty Los Banos Officer stops theft, arrests suspects

Near midnight on April 7, off duty Los Banos Police Officer Freddy Ortiz sat in his car about to enter a convenience store in the 100 block of West Pacheco when he saw two individuals walk in together. As Officer Ortiz waited in line to purchase goods he watched as one of the two, 18 year old Pablo Luna distracted the store clerk as Luna's associate, 20 year old Sergio Sanchez took two cases of beer from the cooler and walk out of the store without paying. Officer Ortiz immediately stopped and detained Sanchez just outside the door of the business as he identified himself as an off duty police officer.

Officer Ortiz also detained Luna until other Officers arrived. The two were arrested for two felonies, Burglary and Conspiracy to commit the crime.

“We are proud of Officer Ortiz for protecting the public even in his off duty time. And to all those contemplating committing a crime, you may want to think twice because you never know when you might be standing next to an off duty police officer ready to do what it takes to stop you from victimizing someone in our community, .”

-Chris Gallagher, Chief of Police

Both remain in custody at the Merced County John Latorraca Correctional Facility.

Anyone with information regarding a crime or other suspicious activity is strongly encouraged to contact the Los Banos Police Department at **209 827 7070**. To leave an anonymous crime tip call, **209 827 7070 X 288**.

If you have access to a computer and the internet you can also leave an anonymous tip, just go to the Police Departments web page at www.losbanos.org. At the bottom of the “Contact” page simply click on the “report graffiti and other crime” link.